Annotated Bibliography: The Effects of Divorce on Children

Afifi, T. D., Afifi, W. A., & Coho, A. (2009). Adolescents' Physiological Reactions to

Their Parents' Negative Disclosures About the Other Parent in Divorced and Nondivorced Families. *Journal Of Divorce & Remarriage*, *50*(8), 517-540. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Tamara D. Afifi, Walid A. Afifi and Amanda Coho discuss how teenagers are affected by what one of their parent says about the other. The negative word that comes out to teens from one parent about the other is difficult for a teen to hear. The authors discuss all the different mental and social problems that occur for teens put in this situation. They bring up the point that the teen feels trapped in only the thoughts of one parent and is scared to see or talk to the other one in fear of being caught in the web of conflict more. This action between parents affects the child more than it is ever thought about.

The three authors bring up some great points and advice for parents to consider making the easiest transition and change for the children in the situation of divorce. The set up of this article with the headings and previews help the audience to stay on track with the massive amount of information and arguments. The authors make it clear to the audience what their viewpoints are on the argument.

This article helps bring up argument points when talking about post divorce affects on children and ways to make the affects seem easier to accept for the kids in the situation. This article gives information and insight on family relationships and how important they are in post divorce situations for children.

Amato, P. R., Kane, J. B., & James, S. (2011). Reconsidering the 'Good Divorce'. *Family*

*Relations*, *60*(5), 511-524. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Amato, Kane, and James co-write this article covering the topic of defining the words “good divorce.” They try to what legally it should be. But, they also talk about how the Internet and news media defines the words. Both have similar views that the best kind of divorce is one that has the least amount of emotional pain for both the parents and the children in the situation. The Internet and news media sites go on to associate the words with lawyers and ways to counsel families to make divorce easier. The article goes on to present points of the reality of what divorce is and how a co-parent life for a child might be good but also could make it hard for the child if he/she has to always move from house to house because of laws set for them. The authors try to argue that a “good divorce” is defined differently for every case.

The authors of this article try to argue the point of how important family is to children and that it makes a difference in the divorce process. They set up the argument by starting with defining the words “good divorce” and then going on to state what research has found to be true about a “good divorce.” They effectively talk about past case studies and their outcomes but also talk about the current study they are conducting on families going through the divorce process.

This article gives much insight on how family makes a difference in how a child is affected by a divorce. This article will add more information about family structure and will help provide more points for an argument about what children feel during a divorce. Focused on children in the argument this will give a outside worldview of the family going through a divorce.

Bing, N. M., Nelson, W. M., & Wesolowski, K. L. (2009). Comparing the Effects of

Amount of Conflict on Children's Adjustment Following Parental Divorce. *Journal Of Divorce & Remarriage*, *50*(3), 159-17. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Nicole M. Bing, W. M. Nelson III, and Kelly L. Wesolowski co- write this article to discuss the adjustment that children go through in the post divorce process. Bing, Nelson, and Wesolowski also discuss in this article that statistics about the adjustment process. Along with the statistics the adjustment for children also might come with social and physiological affects on children.

The authors effectively grab the audience’s attention by naming off affects of divorce on children right away and then they go back and discuss in more depth what each affect involves. Their use of information and statistics is used wisely and does not over whelm the audience.

The information brought out tin this article is great points to bring up in an argument in which discussion of affects on children in the topic. The process of adjustment is big factors in the way children discover how their life will be when everything is final with the divorce situation. According to the authors of this article the adjustment stage of divorce is one of the most critical points in the process for children.

Bjarnason, T., & Arnarsson, A. M. (2011). Joint Physical Custody and Communication

with Parents: A Cross-National Study of Children in 36 Western Countries. *Journal Of Comparative Family Studies*, *42*(6), 871-890. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Bjarnason and Arnarsson co-write this article about studies that were conducted across thirty-six countries in the Western hemisphere. In this article the two writers discuss the statistics of the family structure of post divorce families and the different affects on children in each case. One example is children that live with their single mothers tend to loose a relationship with their fathers within three years after the divorce. Their view on the affects of children after divorce is focused on the family structure and how that affects the children’s future viewpoints on life, marriage, and children.

The way these two writers approach the topic in this article is in a very informational view. They don’t seem to argue the point if children are affected by divorce but whether or not family structure affects the child. They bring up each parenting style but also the different ways countries around the worldview that family structure. The way this article is set up gives ease to the audience when reading and understanding of all of the information.

This article helps provide much needed information and points to make an argument about the affect of divorce on children in the situation. Giving insight to different countries in the world with help not make the United States legal system look so terrible against children. Many countries around the world have some of the same divorce issues that the United States has. Even though this is a more informational article it gives many points to work into an argument. This article will give a more legal viewpoint on the affect of children.

D'Onofrio, B. M., Turkheimer, E., Emery, R. E., Maes, H. H., Silberg, J., & Eaves, L. J.

(2007). A Children of Twins Study of parental divorce and offspring psychopathology. *Journal Of Child Psychology & Psychiatry*, *48*(7), 667-675. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Brian M. D’Onofrio, Eric Turkheimer, Robert E. Emery, Hermine H. Maes, Judy Silberg, and Lindon J. Eaves discuss the factors that need to be looked at when determining how a child is affected. This article is based on a study of children of twins. The result showed that environmental and genetic problems can also affect children during the divorce process says the authors of this article. For the rest of the article they go into depth about the study and how it was performed and then go further in discussion about the results.

The authors effectively introduce this new study in the article. They introduce new ideas to the argument of children and divorce but they know how to keep the audience interested and knowledgeable on the subject. Finally they conclude with more statistics that help drive home their main point.

This article helps argue the point on the affects of children in a divorce situation by bringing in a new factor. The information in this article will drive home some main points in the argument. Finally, it will provide the argument with more concrete statistics from an actual study conducted by the authors of the article.

Hakvoort, E. M., Bos, H. W., Van Balen, F., & Hermanns, J. A. (2011). Post divorce

Relationships in Families and Children's Psychosocial Adjustment. *Journal Of Divorce & Remarriage*, *52*(2), 125-146. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Hakvoort, Bos, Van Balen, and Hermanns co-wrote this article on the affect of different family relationships post divorce. They specifically look at the relationships of single mother to child and single mother and stepfather to child. They present both the negative and positive aspects of each relationship. They come to a conclusion that if a stepfather is added to the family the child might have better chances relating to adults in the future but the studies showed that children still had bad behavior issues in a family that had a stepfather and the ones, which just contained a single mom.

The co-authors of this article set up this argument by defining all of the different types of relationships so the audience can clearly understand the authors’ viewpoints and what they are actually trying to argue. They also bring up important and relevant studies that peak the interest of the audience. Their purpose is to define the affects of different family relationships have on children in post divorce situations. Their main goal is to find the best possible solution for children in post divorce situations.

This article helps present and back up previous information to make points in the argument and will add more dynamic to the points that will be made. This is a highly informational article with the topic on family relationships post divorce. The points made in this article prove the point of the affect divorce has on children.

Jolivet, K. (2011). The Psychological Impact of Divorce on Children: What is a Family

Lawyer to Do? *American Journal Of Family Law*, *25*(4), 175-183. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Kendra Jolivet discusses how children are affected in different divorce situations and the children’s viewpoint on how their parent relationship affects them. Kendra gives many statistics and studies as examples of her research. She talks about the ways that will least affect a child in the process of divorce. An example she gives in letting the child know what is going on in the months or years leading up to the divorce if it is possible. She also gives a different light on how boys and girls react differently to divorce. She goes on to say that in some situations divorce is something that cannot be avoided. The affects of divorce on children can range from small temper and behavior problems to sever physiological problems.

Jolivet sets up her argument by beginning with some legal history on divorce. Then showing how children are affected in those different circumstances she lets the audience understand right away her stand on the issue and main points of her argument. Jolivet offers advice to parents about how to treat their children during the legal process of divorce, which gives a connection from the audience to the writer. Instead of all the bad affects that divorce has on children Jolivet tries to point out that all cases are different and children react in different ways if treated in a manner that promotes trust.

This article helps provide much information on the different types of affects that divorce has on children. This article provides statistics and studies that can be used in an advantage in the argument on the affect of children in a divorced household. Jolivet’s article finally provides the evidence that is needed to produce a good standing argument for children in the situation of their parents becoming divorced. This article gives a viewpoint from children about what affects them in a divorce.

Kruk, E. (2010). Parental And Social Institutional Responsibilities To Children's Needs

In The Divorce Transition: Fathers' Perspectives. *Journal Of Men's Studies*, *18*(2), 159-178. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Edward Kruk discusses in his article the divorce experiences fathers had with their children. He brings out the point that divorce affects the father-child connection and in most situations the father is the one pushed away from the child by the mother in the situation. Also, father parental involvement lacks after the divorce process is complete. Kruk states that a child’s relationship with his or her father is only one affect of divorce. Another affect is how the father feels post divorce when the children are taken away from the father.

Kruk uses a point of view from the father as a differing way to approach his research. He focuses his thoughts on the child to father relationship because it is the one that is least looked at in research on divorce. The way he set up his article is appealing to the audience. After a brief summary he starts his in depth explanation of his research but breaks it up into subheadings to keep the reader interested and focused on the topic.

This research helps in an argument about the affect of divorce on children because it gives a new point of view that most research doesn’t give. This is like an extra punch in the gut for the argument. This research that Kruk did is helpful in understanding all sides of the divorce process and helps to be able to realize the major impact that divorce has on families in society.

Neale, B., & Flowerdew, J. (2007). New Structures, New Agency: The Dynamics of

Child-Parent Relationships after Divorce. *International Journal Of Children's Rights*, *15*(1), 25-42. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2012.

Neale and Flowerdew discuss social and mental interactions that could be tough for children who grew up in a divorced family. This article that these two wrote discuss why children might have social problems due to divorce. They not only look at present issues but also future issues that the children will be faced with in their lifetime.

Neale and Flowerdew use their expertise on such family matters to write this well developed article. Their statistics and research findings are so relevant to the discussion. The in depth information they provide in this article about social and mental issues is what is needed to make their point strong.

The information provided by Neale and Flowerdew will help one to discuss issues in an argument surrounding the topic of children and divorce. The information is helpful to this argument because it puts the children first in the study and focuses on how to make the situation easier for them.

Portnoy, S. M. (2008). The Psychology of Divorce: A Lawyer's Primer, Part 2: The

Effects of Divorce on Children. *American Journal Of Family Law*, *21*(4), 126-134. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Sandford M. Portnoy discusses in his article that after many studies that have been completed the affect of divorce on children is prominent in the United States. After naming some divorce statistics Portnoy goes on to talk about actual affect divorce has on children. He goes into depth on the information to make it clear to the audience what he is talking about.

He effectively uses astounding statistics to grab the audience’s attention and keeps their attention with the most influential information being put out first. Portnoy uses many different tactics to keep his audience focused. He uses heading and subheading well to break up the monotonous information.

This article helps to drive home the main point of what affects children have in a family situation that includes divorce. The statistics are current and the issues talked about in this article go right along with the argument about childhood affects with divorce. This article is plum packed with information that will help build an argument on this case.

Riley, Glenda. *Divorce: An American Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press,

1991. Web. April 21, 2012.

Glenda Riley explains the history of divorce in America in this book. She gives insight on where divorce really started in the United States. She has this book set up like a chronological history book of divorce. After a brief introduction she starts to go into depth on all the historical facts, laws, and court cases that brought the divorce laws to where they are today.

Riley uses her research wisely and bases all of her facts from her personal research. Using these facts she is able to produce an interesting book on the history of this ever changing law. She tells stories of court cases that started the whole movement for divorce laws, which gave an interesting personal edge to her research.

This book helps one to better understand where divorce started and how it grew to the laws it has become. This will help put context and background to an argument on the affects of divorce on children. The history shows the timeline and how fast the avalanche got moving after the first divorce certificate was signed which proves the point that divorce has grown exponentially since its beginning in the 1600s.

Shaff, K., Wolfinger, N. H., Kowaleski-Jones, L., & Smith, K. R. (2008). Family

Structure Transitions And Child Achievement. *Sociological Spectrum*, *28*(6), 681-704. Web. Academic Search Premier April 11, 2011.

Nicholas H. Wolfinger, Lori Kowaleski-Jones, and Ken R. Smith discuss the achievement differences of children living in different family structures. The authors were able to collect data on the different achievement skills. Then were able to make statistics for the different categories. At the end they wrapped their points up and reexamined the main point.

The authors opened the article with a brief summary and then hit the audience in the face with tons of statistics. This was not very appealing with the amount of information being sent at one time but they got their point across in a fast manner. The rest of the article went into depth on what the statistics showed and what they stood for.

This article helps one to see the academic affects children face when in a situation of divorce or parents splitting. This brings up another good point to make in the argument about the affect of divorce on children. The authors show a new side to the ever-growing debate and topic on children and divorce.